

EXHIBIT 26

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re

CUSTOMS AND TAX
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
KINGDOM OF DENMARK (SKAT)
TAX REFUND LITIGATION

This paper applies to: 19-cv-01918

Case No. 18-MD-2865-LAK

Hon. Lewis A. Kaplan

**ANSWER AND
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants Vanderlee Technologies Pension Plan (“Vanderlee”), Vanderlee Technologies Pension Plan Trust and David Zelman (“Zelman”) (collectively, the “Zelman Defendants”), by and through their attorneys Kaplan Rice LLP, for their Answer to the April 21, 2020 amended complaint of plaintiff Skatteforvaltningen (“SKAT”) (the “Amended Complaint”), deny each and every allegation in the Amended Complaint except as specifically admitted or responded to as follows.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 1.

2. Paragraph 2 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 2 against others, no response is required.

3. Paragraph 3 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 3 against others, no response is

required.

4. Paragraph 4 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 4 against others, no response is required.

5. Paragraph 5 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 5 against others, no response is required.

6. Paragraph 6 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 6 against others, no response is required.

7. Paragraph 7 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 7 against others, no response is required.

8. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the Amended Complaint and deny the implied allegation that they participated in a fraudulent scheme.

9. Paragraph 9 of the Amended Complaint and its subparagraphs state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 9 against others,

no response is required.

10. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 10 against others, no response is required.

11. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraud. For the allegations in Paragraph 11 against others, no response is required.

12. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraud. For the allegations in Paragraph 12 against others, no response is required.

13. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraud. For the allegations in Paragraph 13 against others, no response is required.

II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

14. Paragraph 14 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required.

15. Paragraph 15 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required.

III. PARTIES

16. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Amended Complaint.

17. The Zelman Defendants admit the allegations set forth in Paragraph 17 of the Amended Complaint except deny the implication that Vanderlee was not a bona fide pension plan.

18. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 18 as to themselves and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 18 as to others.

19. Paragraph 19 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 19 that Zelman is a citizen of the State of Texas and was the sole participant in Vanderlee. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations.

20. As Paragraph 20 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

21. As Paragraph 21 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

22. As Paragraph 22 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

23. The first sentence of Paragraph 23 of the Amended Complaint states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response to that sentence is required, the Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in that sentence of Paragraph 23. For the allegations in Paragraph 23 against others, no response is required.

24. The first sentence of Paragraph 24 of the Amended Complaint states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response to that sentence is required, the Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in that sentence of Paragraph 24. For the allegations in Paragraph 24 against

others, no response is required.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Danish Withholding Tax System

25. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 25.

26. Paragraph 26 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants respectfully refer the Court to section 65 of the Danish Withholding Tax Act for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

27. Paragraph 27 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants respectfully refer the Court to the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the shareholder's country of residence for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

28. Paragraph 28 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants respectfully refer the Court to the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

29. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 29, except state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan.

30. As Paragraph 29 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

B. The Fraudulent Scheme

31. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the Amended Complaint as to what SKAT knew or did and deny that the Zelman Defendants participated in a fraudulent scheme.

1. The Fraudulent Refund Claims Process

32. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 32 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 32 concerning Payment Agents.

33. The Zelman Defendants state that Vanderlee received payments and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 33 of the Amended Complaint concerning Payment Agents or SKAT.

34. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 34 and each of its subparagraphs and respectfully refer the Court to the documents referred to in Paragraph 34 and each of its subparagraphs for a complete and accurate statement of their contents.

35. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 35 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning the refund applications or statements from the IRS and state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan.

36. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 35 against others, no response is required.

37. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Amended Complaint.

38. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the Amended Complaint.

2. The Role of the Claimants

39. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegation in Paragraph 39 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to what SKAT has determined. For the allegations in Paragraph 39 against others, no response is required.

40. *See* the Zelman Defendants' answer to Paragraph 34.

41. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegation in Paragraph 41 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 41. For the allegations in Paragraph 41 against others, no response is required.

42. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 41 against others, no response is required.

43. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 43 of the Amended Complaint.

44. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegation in Paragraph 43 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme.

45. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 45 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth

of the allegations concerning the refund claims submitted to SKAT and refer the Court the section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States referenced in Paragraph 45 for a complete and accurate statement of their contents. The Zelman Defendants also state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan.

46. Paragraph 46 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 46 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan and refer the Court to section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States referenced in Paragraph 46 for a complete and accurate statement of their contents.

47. Paragraph 47 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 47 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan. For the allegations in Paragraph 47 as to others, no response is required.

48. Paragraph 48 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 48 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan.

49. Paragraph 49 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the

allegations in Paragraph 49 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan and refer the Court to section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States referenced in Paragraph 49 for a complete and accurate statement of their contents.

50. Paragraph 50 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 50 that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and refer the Court to the double taxation treaty between Denmark and the United States referenced in Paragraph 50 for a complete and accurate statement of their contents.

51. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 51 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, admit that Vanderlee received payments and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 51.

52. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 52 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, state that Zelman was the sole participant in Vanderlee and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations in Paragraph 52.

53. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 53 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations in Paragraph 53.

3. The Role of the Partner Defendants

54. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 54 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 54 against others, no response is required

55. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 55 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, state, on information and belief that Vanderlee retained only a portion of the refund payments and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 55. For the allegations in Paragraph 55 against others, no response is required.

56. The Zelman Defendants state that Vanderlee received payments and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 56 of the Amended Complaint. For the allegations in Paragraph 56 against others, no response is required.

57. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 57 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 57 against others, no response is required.

58. As Paragraph 58 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

59. As Paragraph 59 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

60. As Paragraph 60 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

61. As Paragraph 61 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

62. As Paragraph 62 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

63. As Paragraph 63 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

64. As Paragraph 64 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

4. The Role of the Claimants' Authorized Representatives

65. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 65 and refer the Court to the Power of Attorney for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

66. *See* the Zelman Defendants' answer to Paragraph 65.

67. Paragraph 67 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 67.

68. The Zelman Defendants deny the implied allegation in Paragraph 68 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 68 against others, no response is required.

69. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 69 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 69 against others, no response is required.

70. As Paragraph 70 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations

concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

5. The Role of the Payment Agents

71. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 71 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme. For the allegations in Paragraph 71 against others, no response is required.

72. Paragraph 72 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 72 and refer to the Power of Attorney for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

73. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 73 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme, state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning the documentation submitted by the Payment Agents.

74. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 74 of the Amended Complaint concerning the documentation submitted by Payment Agents.

75. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 75 of the Amended Complaint that they participated in a fraudulent scheme and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 74 concerning the submissions to SKAT for distributions by the Payment Agents.

6. The Role of the Broker-Custodians

76. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 76 of the Amended Complaint.

77. The Zelman Defendants deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 77 of the Amended Complaint and its subparagraphs and respectfully refer the Court to the Dividend Credit Advice for a complete and accurate statement of its contents.

78. Paragraph 78 of the Amended Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny allegations in Paragraph 78 of the Amended Complaint and state, upon information and belief, that Vanderlee was a qualified pension plan.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

(Fraud – Against All Defendants)

79. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 78 as if set forth fully herein.

80. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 80 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 80 as to others, no response is required.

81. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 81 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 81 as to others, no response is required.

82. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 82 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 82 as to others, no response is

required.

83. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 83 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 83 as to others, no response is required.

COUNT II
(Aiding and Abetting Fraud – Against All Defendants)

84. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 83 as if set forth fully herein.

85. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 85 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 85 as to others, no response is required.

86. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 86 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 86 as to others, no response is required.

87. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 87 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 87 as to others, no response is required.

88. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 88 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 88 as to others, no response is required.

89. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 89 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 89 as to others, no response is required.

90. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 90 of the Amended

Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 90 as to others, no response is required.

COUNT III
(Payment By Mistake – Against All Defendants)

91. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 90 as if set forth fully herein.

92. As Paragraph 92 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

93. As Paragraph 93 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

94. As Paragraph 94 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

95. As Paragraph 95 of the Amended Complaint does not contain allegations concerning the Zelman Defendants, no response is required.

96. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 96 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 96 as to others, no response is required.

COUNT IV
(Unjust Enrichment – Against All Defendants)

97. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 96 as if set forth fully herein.

98. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 98 of the Amended Complaint as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 98 as to others, no response is required.

99. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 99 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 99 as to others, no response is required.

100. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 100 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 100 as to others, no response is required.

101. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 101 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 101 as to others, no response is required.

COUNT V
(Money Had & Received – Against All Defendants)

102. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 101 as if set forth fully herein.

103. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 103 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 103 as to others, no response is required.

104. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 104 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 104 as to others, no response is required.

COUNT VI
(Negligent Misrepresentation – Against All Defendants)

105. The Zelman Defendants repeat and reallege their answers to paragraphs 1 through 104 as if set forth fully herein.

106. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 106 of the Amended

Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 106 as to others, no response is required.

107. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 107 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 107 as to others, no response is required.

108. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 108 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 108 as to others, no response is required.

109. The Zelman Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 109 of the Amended Complain as to themselves. For the allegations in Paragraph 109 as to others, no response is required.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

The allegations set forth in the “WHEREFORE” clause constitute SKAT’s request for relief to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, the Zelman Defendants deny that SKAT is entitled to the relief requested, or any other relief.

JURY DEMAND

The Zelman Defendants demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff’s claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute of limitations.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of unclean hands, laches, waiver, and estoppel.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff has failed to join necessary and indispensable parties.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, due to Plaintiff's failure to exhaust its administrative or other legal remedies available to it.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because any and all purported damages are the result of Plaintiff's conduct, including but not limited to: negligence, contributory negligence, assumption of risk, and wrongful or unauthorized acts.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because it lacks standing to assert claims on behalf of the sovereign.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because the subject matter of this Amended Complaint is the subject of pending legal proceedings in another jurisdiction.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff has failed to mitigate its alleged damages.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of res judicata.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent that such purported damages have or will be paid or indemnified by a collateral source.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims against the Zelman Defendants are barred, in whole or in part, because any purported loss, damages or injuries were caused, in whole or in part, by the negligence, assumption of risk, fault of other culpable parties and/or third parties to this action, other than the Zelman Defendants, for whose acts, omissions or breaches of legal duty the Zelman Defendants are not liable.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, and any recovery by Plaintiff should be reduced by application of New York General Obligations Law § 15-108.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by collateral estoppel.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to hear this action.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by waiver and release.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims alleged in the Amended Complaint are barred by the long-standing doctrine of the Revenue Rule, which prohibits one sovereign from using courts of another sovereign to enforce

its revenue laws.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Amended Complaint fails to plead fraud with the adequate degree of specificity and particularity.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendants hereby adopt and incorporate by reference any and all other legally valid defenses to be asserted by any other defendant in this action to the extent they are applicable to Defendants.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The recovery by SKAT, if any, should be barred because the subject matter of this lawsuit is the subject matter of another pending legal or administrative proceeding.

TWENTY FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Zelman Defendants reserve the right to add or amend these Affirmative Defenses based on information that may become known during the course of discovery.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Zelman Defendants respectfully request a judgment dismissing the Amended Complaint with prejudice, together with its costs, disbursements and attorney's fees and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: July 3, 2020
New York, New York

Respectfully submitted,

KAPLAN RICE LLP

By: /s/Michelle A. Rice

142 West 57th Street Suite 4A
New York, New York 10019
(212) 235-0300 (telephone)
(212) 235-0301 (facsimile)

*Attorneys for Defendants David
Zelman, Vanderlee Technologies
Pension Plan and Vanderlee
Technologies Pension Plan Trust*